



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

M/047/007

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288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(801) 538-6146 Voice
(801) 538-6016 Fax
(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.

July 7, 1997

Mr. Ron Ryan
S.F. Phosphates
9401 N. Highway 191
Vernal, Utah 84078

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Subject: Request for Ground Water Discharge Permit Application; S.F. Phosphates Tailings Impoundment

Based on your recent phone conversation with John Whitehead of my staff, it is our understanding that S.F. Phosphates is planning to expand the existing tailings impoundment at their mining and milling operation near Vernal Utah. Utah's ground water quality protection regulations require a person that modifies an existing facility not permitted by rule under R317-6-6.2 to obtain a ground water discharge permit. Based on the nature and size of your operation, there does not appear to be a permit by rule category that includes the S.F. Phosphate Operation. Accordingly, S.F. Phosphate is required to submit a permit application for a ground water discharge permit at least 180 days prior to initiating the expansion of the tailings facility. To assist you in this effort, enclosed are application guidance materials and a copy of the current ground water quality protection regulations.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact John Whitehead at 801-538-6053.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Pehrson, P.E., Manager
Permits, Compliance & Monitoring Branch

FCP:jw

Enclosures (2)

cc: Joseph B. Schaffer, Tri-County Health Dept. (w/out enclosures)
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, (w/out enclosures)
Ted Allen, (w/out enclosures)

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FILE:S.F. PHOSPHATES

